

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS
STATE TAX COMMISSION

J. E. SAINT
CHIEF TAX COMMISSIONER
BYRON O. BEALL
SECRETARY



MARTIN CHAVES
SANTA FE
GEO. L. ULRICK
CARRIZO
ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONERS

STATE TAX COMMISSION

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

November 15, 1923.

Mr. Charles F. Lummis,
200 East Avenue 43,
Los Angeles, California.

My dear Mr. Lummis,-

I have your favor of the 10th instant in answer to my letter of the 7th.

I appreciate very much your kind words of me personally. I am like yourself, very busy, and until I get out of this office, would not attempt anything such as you suggest.

I also received your letter that was returned to you from Albuquerque, together with the application blank for your book. I am enclosing, herewith, my check for \$1.50 for which you may please send the book to my address.

I am too busy to-day to write a letter but at some future time when I have something worth while saying, I will write you.

Sincerely,

J. E. Saint

S:E
Encl.

November 10, 1923.

Hon. J. M. Saint,
Chief Tax Commissioner,
Santa Fe, N. M.

Dear Joe:

I was surprised and delighted at the receipt of your letter of the 7th. I had been thinking about you very definitely (as will appear) and was doubly wondering what had become of you. Perhaps you can help me give a swift kick to the Albuquerque Postoffice which returned to me yesterday a letter sent you in that stupid town.

I have been too much out of the world to know of your promotion - but those lumps in Albuquerque ought to know the address of the Chief Tax Commissioner of the State!

I surely remember that day at the old crater of Agua Fria - and your miraculous escape. And I remember many other things of those far but unforgettable times, which I recall very frequently and with tender feeling. Indeed, "Then Was The Good Old Days!"

It gratifies me deeply to have your commendation of my article on the "First Americans." I am in the habit of believing I am right before I publish, and it takes a pretty good man to convince me I am wrong afterward. And I learned long ago that it doesn't pay to be careless or mistaken.

On the other hand, when a veteran of the Frontier like you, not only with so many years of observation but with such keen eyes, approves my findings, it is of course doubly gratifying. And my position about the Indians and their origin, I am prepared to maintain in any controversy and on any field.

You are dead right about the "innumerable errors

of our Anglo-Saxon pioneers in New Mexico,"
and elsewhere.

We are not as good colonizers as the Spanish were, and our self-sufficiency and drive make us overlook the rights of others and their value to us. The Spanish statesmen realized that the wealth of a new country was not in mines and timber and lands merely, but equally in its people.

We have never looked upon the people in any country we have over-run as anything but obstacles and nuisances to be kicked aside -- which is, as Napoleon said: "Worse than a crime -- it is a blunder."

You surely could write a book on your 44 years in New Mexico -- and one that would be a corker. I wish you would do it, too -- at least some phases of it. The historian will need in the future exactly the kind of record that you could leave.

I have been sick for over a year, but am getting stronger and am very happy and modestly active. Just now I am trying to save some of the dear old Songs of California from oblivion. The First Book is not yet off the press, and already the first edition has been over-subscribed, so that a second edition needs to be run before the first is distributed. The book will be out in about two weeks; and I am enclosing the circular telling about it, and hope it will be of interest to you. This great success with the First Book warrants me to believe that next year I may be able to follow it with a Second Book of similar songs, in which I shall probably include a couple of New Mexican folksongs.

With great content at your well earned promotion, and at your memories of our old associations, and with love and all good wishes,

Always your Friend,

CFL/R

J. E. SAINT
CHIEF TAX COMMISSIONER
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MARTIN CHAVES
SANTA FE
GEO. L. ULTRICK
CARRIZOZO
ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONERS

STATE TAX COMMISSION

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

PO Box 1058

November 7, 1923.

Mr. Chas. F. Lummis,
Los Angeles,
California.

My dear Mr. Lummis:

I cannot refrain from writing you after reading your splendid article "First Americans" in Sunday's Los Angeles Times.

Your idea of the origin of the American Indians appeals to me as the most logical and comprehensive and altogether sensible of any I have ever read and I want to add my humble congratulations to the many I know you will receive from different people. Your long years of study of the Indians in this country, of which I have personal knowledge, I know qualifies you immeasurably beyond the Academic Theorists that never saw an Indian outside of Buffalo Bills Show, or something of that kind.

This to my mind is the most refreshing article on the Indians that it has been my good fortune to read.

I cannot refrain from indulging in a bit of reminiscing of the time when you visited my ranch. I think it must have been in the late 80's when we together climbed to the top of the old crater back of Agua Fria. You were trying to photograph that gigantic hole in the ground and the deep shadows in the bottom were giving you a good deal of trouble. I was amusing myself by digging big rocks out of the ashes around the cone of the crater and rolling

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them off to hear them crash through the underbrush in the bottom of the crater. I had walked out on a ledge looking over into the crater when I felt the whole mess under me tremble and stepped off just in time to see it drop 400 or 500 feet. You came down with your camera on your shoulder and I was sitting on the ashes and you said - "what is the matter - you are as white as a sheet" and I told you what had happened. I have never forgotten that "close call", for one second only was between me and certain death. I am sure that up to this good hour I have never been so near Eternity as I was at that instant.

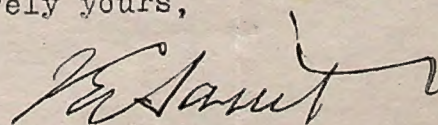
As the years come and go, my forty-four years, this month, in New Mexico has taught me many things and convinced me of the innumerable errors that the early Anglo-Saxon made in New Mexico, in his ignorance of climatic conditions which retarded the development of the country and in addition to that the general exploitation that the pioneer inflicts on all frontier countries, not only New Mexico but wherever the grasping Anglo-Saxon goes.

You will notice by this letter-head that I am still the head of the Tax Commission of New Mexico, and I will finish my sixth year in January and will have fourteen and one-half months to serve from that time, if I live, until the expiration of my office.

I believe I could almost write a book on my experience in New Mexico from the practical psychology, especially what I have learned of human psychology since I have been a member of the Tax Commission, but, knowing you to be a busy man, as well as myself, I will close.

Again wishing you a continuation of your noble work and with assurance of my highest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



JES:M